

Vishvanatha Kaviraja Institute
Of
Comparative Literature and Aesthetics

FOUNDED : 1977

Registered under the Societies Registration Act
No. XXI of 1860
No. 13094/2030 of 1977-78

Regd. Office
KASHINATHA BHAVAN
Bada Bazar, Baripada
Mayurbhanj (Orissa)

WORKING OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Indu Mension
A 42, Sector 7, Markat Nagar
Cuttack 753 014, Orissa, India

A Synoptic Introduction to Vishvanatha Kaviraja

Vishvanatha Kaviraja, one of the greatest Sanskrit scholars and literary critics of mediaeval India was the Prime Minister (Sandhivigrahika) to Nihshankabhanudeva, the King of Orissa, a contemporary of Allauddin Khilij (First part of 14th Century A.D.). Coming of a family, rich in learning and culture, he established himself as a linguist, poet, critic and politician having mastered over eighteen languages. His father Chandrasekhara was also a great linguist, a master of fourteen languages and a poet of provincial repute.

Many of the Works of Vishvanatha are lost to us. Only some five works are available among which only two works are published and have received international reputation. They are: (1) *Sahityadarpana*, a complete critique of all the forms of Sanskrit literature being the only book in its type; and (2) *Chandrakala*, a play. The *Sahityadarpana* shows Vishvanatha's wide range of reading, philosophical depth, masterly control over a comprehensive style and, above all, a daring spirit in analyzing the works of the well reputed authorities like Mammata and Ruyyaka with arguments as original as reasonable. Today the reputation of *Sahityadarpana* is beyond controversy. The book being accepted as almost a first book of Sanskrit criticism is just a common name for the students of Sanskrit literature. Vishvanatha's unpublished works include *Chamatkara Chandrika*, *Prashasti Ratnavali*, *Narasimha Vijaya* and the *Darpana* commentary on Mammata's *Kavyaprakasha*, which when published, will surely benefit the scholars immensely.

It is highly justified that Orissa should have an Institute named after her greatest scholar so far to prosecute higher studies and researches in his field widening its scope and method suitable for the demand of the age, and as such an ideal goes far beyond any provincialism or regionalism the Institute demands co-operation, patronization and sponsorship of the whole nation rather than of any particular state.

MEMORANDUM

Aims and Objects :

- (a) A purely cultural and educational institution named after the great Sanskrit scholar and critic of the 14th Century Orissa.
- (b) The Institute shall be an autonomous body and shall aim at higher interdisciplinary and comparative studies and researches in literature, philosophy, language, religion, culture and fine arts.
- (c) The scope of comparison of literature etc. will extend over all the nations of the world irrespective of race, religion, caste, creed and colour though with the Institute's own limitations of resources etc.
- (d) The Institute shall edit and publish ancient Indian Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit texts with English translations and commentaries wherever necessary.
- (e) The Institute shall publish a half-yearly journal (entitled – *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*) in English language.
- (f) All the research works conducted by the Institute shall usually be written in English which shall be published by the Institute possessing the copyright of the works.
- (g) Research works conducted by the Institute may be carried on by the students anywhere outside the premises of the Institute under or with any scholar or independently (where possible) with the approval of the Institute.
- (h) The Institute shall offer Junior and Senior Fellowships. Paid fellows have to work inside the campus of the Institute and have to produce progress reports under the supervision of a scholar recognised by the Institute (or independently.)
- (i) The degrees and diplomas shall be awarded for studies and researches as shall be decided by the Executive Council.
- (j) The Institute shall organise academic exchange programme with the Institutes of foreign countries.

Constitution of Vishvanatha Kaviraja Institute:

The Institute shall consist of (a) Executive Council, (b) Academic Council and (c) Honorary Members.

(a) Executive Council :

(i) Qualification of the members of the E.C.

The Institute shall be an autonomous body and shall be governed by an Executive Council consisting of eleven members including a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, one Secretary, one Assistant Secretary and six Members. Each member is to be at least a graduate (or an equivalent degree holder). The Chairman shall either be an eminent scholar in any of the fields of specialization of the Institute or shall be an eminent social worker with a scholarly bent of mind evident from his publication. The Vice-Chairmen and Secretary must also be of the same type. Members may be selected from other various lines of education and activity such as Advocates, Engineers or Physicians or any Social worker or professional educationist.

(ii) Forming of the E.C.

Members of the Executive Council are to be nominated on the basis of their merit.

(iii) Tenure of the members of the E.C.

Members are to work on their chairs until their own resignation or until they are found inactive. In such case the Executive Council will replace a member or members by nomination.

(iv) Meeting of the E.C.

The E.C. should normally meet once a month. Four members can form a quorum.

A meeting of the E.C. will be presided over by the Chairman, in his absence by a Vice-Chairman, in his absence by the Secretary. Secretary will be the convenor of all the meetings. In case of emergency two-thirds of the members of the E.C. can call a meeting. The Secretary will be responsible for all managerial correspondences and activities. Asst. Secretary will assist the Secretary in the office.

(b) Academic Council and appointment of Academic Director:

(i) Function and qualification of Director.

The E.C. will appoint one Director, who shall be responsible for all academic correspondences and activities. The Director must (a) be a scholar of eminence in any

one or more of the fields specialized by the Institute, (b) a master or any other equivalent degree holder of any one of the Indian languages preferably Sanskrit and of any one of the European languages preferably English, (c) have at least 12 years teaching experience in Honours and Post-graduate classes, (d) have standard publications and ample experience of guiding researches.

(ii) Relation of Director & E.C.

In managerial decisions the E.C. has to consult the Director who will attend the meeting of the E.C. as a special invitee.

(iii) Members of the Academic Council.

All the members of the teaching staff of the Institute shall be the members of the A.C. Besides, the E.C., in consultation with the Director can nominate at least 5 members from other institutes or universities for a period of one academic year.

(c) Honorary Members:

Besides the members of the E.C., there shall be Honorary members. All the minor and major donors, all types of active participants in the development and progress of the Institute and some of the most illustrious scholars in the fields of specialization of the Institute shall be accepted by the E.C. as Honorary Members. Though they shall not be directly concerned with the administration of the Institute their suggestions and advice shall always be highly regarded and actively considered in the advancement of the Institute.

This constitution may be amended from time to time, whenever needed, by the Executive Council.

Audit :

The Accounts of the Society will be audited by a Government Auditor or qualified auditor annually.

Dissolution :

Upon dissolution of the Society its assets will be handed over to a society of similar objects after clearing all its debts and liabilities.

Reference :

Visvanatha Kaviraja by Ananta Ch.Sukla (Delhi : Sahitya Akademi, 2011)
